

MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2018

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire, Karen Mathiasen

Members Absent: Michael Rademacher, Liza Molina

Others Present: Darcy Devney, Disability Advocate
John Tortelli, Resident Sunnyside Ave.
Marybeth Gilchrist, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2017:

The Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2017 were tabled until March 21, 2018.

Diversity Job Fair:

Jack Jones said that the Diversity Job Fair to be held on Wednesday April 11th 2018 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. will be the ninth Annual Diversity Job Fair held at the Arlington Town Hall. Jack said that thirty employers have agreed to participate in this year's Job Fair.

Annual Report Submission:

Jack Jones said that he has submitted the 2017 Commission on Disability Annual Report. Jack said that the most notable Commission accomplishment during FY 2017 was the creation of 27 additional accessible parking spaces on the Town's public ways. In addition to the 27 new accessible spaces through the work of Darcy Devney six additional accessible parking spaces were added to the parking area at 22 Mill St., which is basically a medical office building.

Commission Membership:

Jack Jones said that three applicants for appointment to the Commission on Disability will be presented at the March 19th Selectmen Meeting by Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration for appointment.

Concern Mentioned on Arlington List Regarding the Uneven Bricks in Arlington Center Sidewalks:

Cynthia DeAngelis said that several people mentioned in the Arlington List their concern regarding the safety of walking on brick sidewalks in Arlington Center. Jack Jones said that the Town has a plan to replace this year the circular brick driveway next to the Senior Center Building.

Concern Regarding the Lack of Sidewalks on Sunnyside Avenue:

Two Arlington residents expressed their concern to the Commission about the lack of sidewalks at Sunnyside Avenue and Broadway. They mentioned that especially with snow banks along the side of the street pedestrians are forced to walk in the street.

Agenda for March 2018:

The following is agenda items that Cynthia wants to include on the March 2018 Agenda.

1. Have Commission members introduce themselves and mention their area or focus on disabilities that is most important to them.
2. Review minutes of December 2017 and February 2018.
3. Discuss roles and responsibilities of Commission Members
4. Select a secretary for the Commission.
5. Have Mike Rademacher provide an overview of Roberts Rules such as how to begin and end a meeting.

Other Business:

Kerrie Fallon said that the State is considering setting time limits for parking in a handicapped parking space. Darcy Devney and Maureen St. Hilaire said that they are strongly opposed to time limits for handicapped parking. Kerrie suggested that the Commission take a vote on time limits and send a letter regarding the outcome of the vote to the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

Cynthia said that next year the Commission should consider moving the February Meeting to another week in that the third Wednesday in February is the week of school vacation resulting in some members being unavailable to meet.

Jack Jones said that he has heard from a counselor at Minuteman Senior Services that the elevators at Minuteman Towers are nonoperational again after recently being put back into service. A few people with disabilities live in this sixth story building.

Cynthia discussed having Marybeth Gilchrist work with the Commission to develop a list of words that are offensive to persons with disabilities and to suggest more appropriate words that can be used that are not offensive.

Marybeth Gilchrist expressed her concern about the angle of the curb cut at Pleasant St. and Mass. Ave. that results in a visually impaired person walking outside the crosswalk.

Kerrie said that the Arlington Police Department is only one of four municipalities in the State to have received a certification indicating their knowledge and training on dealing with individuals with mental health issues. Kerrie suggested that at a future Commission Meeting a member of the Arlington Police Department be invited to attend a Commission Meeting to discuss the Departments training on Mental Health issues.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.